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PROPOSAL

HUMBLY DEDICATED

TO THE

KING,

Lords and *Commons*,

OF

GREAT-BRITTAIN;

Setting forth the Manner how We may very profitably Employ our now *Idle*, *Chargeable*, *Young*, *Weak*, *Feeble* and *Aged Poor*, who can ſcarce go from Door to Door to begg, and are now our ſhame and heavy Burthen, and ſo will continue to be, unleſs reform'd by being ſet to Work; plainly Demonſtrating that the more thoſe *Lazy Idle* People are employ'd and forced to Work, the more our profitable and Induſtrious Poor will be employ'd, and encouraged to Work, by which will be Saved above One Million *per Annum*, in our now miſapply'd Poors Rates and Occaſional Charity, and alſo gaining Three or Four Millions *per Annum*, by the Labour of the now Idle; And be Ten times greater Charity than to maintain them in this *Begging*, *Starving*, Unhealthful Courſe of Life.

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King *GEORGE* in His Speech to both Houſes of Parliament, On *Thurſday* the 9th Day of *January*, 1723, ſaid,

My *Lords* and *Gentlemen*,

IN the preſent Happy Situation of Our Affairs, I have nothing more to recommend to you, than that you would make Uſe of the Opportunity which your own good Conduct has put into your Hands, in conſidering of ſuch farther Laws, as may be wanting for the Eaſe and Incouragement of Trade and Navigation, for the Employment of the Poor, and for the Exciting and Incouraging a Spirit of Induſtry in the Nation.

King *William* in His Speech to both Houſes of Parliament the 9th of *December* 1698, ſaid,

My *Lords* and *Gentlemen*,

I Think it would be happy, if ſome *Effectual* Expedient could be found for imploying the Poor, which might tend to the great Increaſe of our Manufactures, as well as remove a heavy Burden from the People.

I hope alſo you will employ your Thoughts about ſome good Bills for the Advancement of Trade, and for the further diſcouraging of *Vice* and *Prophaneneſs*.

The Lord Chief Juſtice *Hale*, in his Diſcourſe for imploying the Poor, ſaid,

1ſt, They that are Rich, are Stewards of their Wealth; and they that are wiſe are Stewards of their Wiſdom, unto that great Maſter of the Family of Heaven and Earth, to whom they muſt give an Account of both: And one (I am ſure) of the beſt Accounts they can give of both, is to employ them in the Reformation and Relief of thoſe that want both, or either. Am I my Brothers Keeper? was the Anſwer of one of the worſt of Men.

2d, It would be a work of great Humanity, we owe to thoſe of our own Nature as we are men, and that as well becomes a Chriſtian as any; and the ill Proviſion for the Poor in England, is one of the greateſt Reproaches to our Chriſtian Profeſſion.

3d, The Want of a due Proviſion for Education and Relief of the Poor in a way of Induſtry, is that which fills the Jayls with Malefactors, and the Kingdom with Idle Perſons that conſume the ſtock of the Kingdom, without improving it; and that will daily encreaſe, even to a Deſolation in Time, And this Error, in the firſt Concoction, is never remediable but by Gibbets, and whipping: But a ſound prudent method, for an Induſtrious Education of the Poor, will give a better Remedy againſt theſe Corruptions, than all the Gibbets and whipping Poſts in the Kingdom; for as neceſſitous and uneducated Perſons increaſe, the Multitude of Malefactors will increaſe, notwithſtanding the Examples of Severity

Sr. Joſiah Child ſaith in his Diſcourſe about the Poor

And if a whole Seſſion of Parliament were imploy'd on this ſingular Concern I think (ſaith he) *it would be time ſpent as much to the* Glory of God *and good of this Nation, as in any thing that worthy and noble Patriots of their Country can be engaged in.*

Here are ſtrong and pathetick Lines in behalf of the Poor, by two powerful Kings an honourable Judge, and one of the Greateſt Merchants.

No Man need be aſhamed to eſpouſe the ſame Cauſe with ſuch Advocates.

KING GEORGE in His Speech to both Houses of Parliament,

TO THE

KING,

Lords and Commons &c.

THAT our Poors Rates, and occasional Charaties, are misapply'd, is well known and believed by all Sober thinking people.

The proposer hereof has employ'd many Hundreds of poor parish Children, and notwithstanding the parish Nurses did receive 18*d. per* Week, besides the parish allowance; yet, they chiefly had for their Food Stinking Mouldy Beggars scraps and not half enough, and their constant Drink was Water, by which I have seen many Hundreds of these poor Infants live a Miserable pining Starving Life; which rendred them incapable of serving their Country, and commonly ended in Lameness or Death: while the Elder poor spend their poors Rates, and Occasional Charities at the Chandlers Shops and such like places, in unhealthful Food and Liquors and receive not above 9*d.* for their Shilling, insomuch that your present Charities end in Miseries.

To bring your now Idle Poor to be your Riches and happiness, it is humbly propos'd, that a covenient Place of Reception be provided, for all Persons who receives any Almes from the Parish or Parishes, and there to feed them after the plainest, cheapest and most plentiful manner, and to employ them after the most Easy, Expeditious and Profitable Method.

By your extraordinary Care for the better employing of the Poor, you have made ſeveral good Laws, for the effectual prohibiting the vaſt Quantities of Foreign woven Manufactures, and have laid very high Duties upon others, and alſo for the effectual preventing the Running of Prohibited Goods, and ſuch as have not paid their Cuſtome by which Wiſe Conduct you have provided Work for Three or Four Hundred Thouſand Spinſters, in ſo much, that there is an abſolute Neceſſity for the employing all our Idle Hands.

For the Effectual performing ſo good a Work, your propoſer has invented ſeveral Engines and curious Arts for the Better employing the *Poor*, and exiting and encouraging a Spirit of Induſtry amongſt the People: All the *Noblemen*, *Gentlemen*, *Artificers* and *Manufacturers*, who have ſeen my New Invented Spinning Engines, declare that they are the beſt that ever were Invented, for the better employing the Poor in the ſeveral *Pariſh-Work-Houſes*, *Charity-Schooles*, &c.

And for the better Spinning of *Sheeps Wool*, *Cotton Wool*, *Carmenia Wool*, *Flax* and *waſt Silk* into a finer, more Even and Stronger Thread than hath hitherto been known or practiſed, by which means our preſent Woolen Manufactures will be very much improv'd *viz.* Our *Broad Cloaths*, *Devonſhire Carzeys*, *Ratteenes*, *Bayes*, *Perpetuaneys*, *Serges*, *Saggathyes*, *Shelloons*, *Sayes*, *Duroys*, *Durants*, *Druggets*, *Crapes* and *Stuffs* of all Sorts; And by which means our Ingenious Weavers and other Artificers will be enabled to make many New, Beautiful and durable Manufactures which were never before made in any of the *KING's* Dominions, and our Profitable and Induſtrious Poor work with much more eaſe and pleaſure than they have hitherto done.

Our

Our chargable Young of 5 or 6 Years Old and our Feeble and Aged Poor may in 2 or 3 Months Time be taught to get a comfortable Maintainance, with much more Eaſe and Pleaſure than they can by going from Door to Door to begg. Theſe Engines will coſt little more than the common Spinning Wheels that we import from Foreign parts, and the Uſe of them being eaſily learn'd, and no ways Laborious will be for a General Intreſt, and ought to be in every Pariſh, ſince by them our Spinning and Weaving will be perform'd with ſuch Eaſe, Expedition and Perfection that OUR Merchants will be able to underſell the Merchants of our Neighbouring Nations.

The *KING's* Subjects will hereby be much better and Cheaper ſupply'd, then they can be from any other parts of the World, conſidering the great Expence and Danger in Running, Selling and Wearing *prohibited Goods*, and by which means all our *Sheeps Wool* of *Great-Britton* and *Ireland* will be wrought up at home, and our *Cotton Wool* of the Growth of the *KING's* Plantations very much improv'd, and alſo the *waſt Silk*, of our Neighbouring Nations imported hither, and Spun by our now *Idle Poor*; alſo far greater Quantities of Flax of the Growth of *Great-Britton* and *Ireland* will be wrought up; and likewiſe much greater Quantities of *Spaniſh Wool*, *Raw Silk* from *Turkey*, and *Thrown Silk* from *Italie*, as alſo much greater Quantities of Oyles and Diers Wares of all Sorts Yearly Expended.

My Duty, Love and Eſteem for my Dearly Beloved Native Country has engaged me in its Product and Manufactures above 40 Years Study in which Time I have gain'd as much Experience in the Manufacturing of *Sheeps Wool*, *Cotton Wool*, *Silk* &c. as any Man in *Europe*: But

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Your propoſer having ſpent many Years and all his Subſtance, and is not able to make Improvements, and give full demonſtration of theſe his performances: If he had been enabled with more Money he could have made his Engines Ten Times better, and given Twenty Times better proofs of the Goodneſs of their performances; Wherefore I ſhould be unjuſt to my Country, if I ſhou'd not pray for Your Favour and Aſſiſtance, without which my Beneficial Engines and Curious Arts will be loſt to this Nation.

Therefore, I humbly pray You to take the premiſes under Your Wiſe and prudent Conſideration, and grant me ſuch Relief as will enable me to Travel into the ſeveral *Cities*, *Corporations*, *Townſhips* and *pariſhes* of *Great-Britain*, to teach the *KING's* Subjects to make and Uſe my Engines and Curious Arts, and alſo to Improve your Woollen and other Manufactures, and to make many New, Beautiful and Durable Manufactures, which I do heartily long to ſee ſpeedily effected, leaſt by ſome crafty way they ſhou'd be carry'd into Foreign Nations, before they are well Settled at home.

There is a very great Deſire, at this Time, in the People of *England* to Relieve, Employ and Reform the Poor; and fine Spinning and fine Manufactures were never ſo much wanted, nor ſo good a Method ever yet found out for theſe good purpoſes as I have Invented.

I have had the Gentlemen of a great many *Pariſh-Work-Houſes* come to ſee my Engines and all of 'em approve and like them, and deſire me to get them ready as ſoon as poſſible, which I am no ways able to perform, without Your aſſiſtance.

It

It is very well known that the Pariſhes are in Debt, and no ways able to give me a great price for my Engines, nor to reward me for my Invention; Nay, they find it difficult to Raiſe Money to Build *Work-Houſes* and to purchaſe Beding with other neceſſaries of Life for the comfortable Reception of the *POOR*.

For the effectual carrying on ſo great and ſo good a work that tends both to the relieving, employing and reforming of the *Poor*, and to the enriching of the *Nation*, which no Weak, Feeble Pattent compos'd of Five Cunning, Crafty, Bubbling, Jealous perſon can perform, for true Charity ought to be free; Therefore, I moſt Humbly pray your Charitable Concurrence and Aſſiſtance, and that you wou'd Vouchſafe (out of Your wonted Goodneſs, Clemency and Love to Your Country) your Noble and Honourable Houſe of Commons, would pleaſe to addreſs the *KING*, that I may be enabled to ſpread theſe my Engines and Curious Arts into all parts of *Great-Britton*; And that Your Honourable Houſe, (as ſoon as poſſible) will pleaſe to prevent their being exported beyond the Seas.

I humbly begg leave, with the greateſt Submiſſion to declare before the *KING*, *Lords* and *Commons* that the beſt way for the effectual carrying on ſo great a work, and for exciting and incouraging Spirit of Induſtry amongſt the people, will be to give Liberty to all Charitable and well diſpos'd Chriſtians to ſubſcribe ſuch Sums of Money, as ſhall be needful for the making thoſe Engines and for the purchaſing *Sheeps Wool*, *Cotton Wool*, *Flax &c.* And for paying the pariſh poor their Wages in ſuch pariſhes where they are not able to purchaſe Utenſils and Materials to employ them themſelves.

I alſo moſt humbly begg that ſuch *Perſons*, as ſhall make ſuch Subſcriptions, in the ſeveral *Citties*, *Corporations*, *Townſhips* or *Pariſhes* ſhall be at Liberty to incorporate themſelves, and to act as a corporate Body, which thing at this Time my *Pattent* will not allow of.

Note, that I do not mean that this ſhall be one incorporate Body throughout *Great-Britton*; but, that every *Citty*, *Corporation*, *Townſhip* and *pariſh* ſhall be at Liberty to incorporate themſelves and employ their own poor.

I moſt Humbly pray that thoſe Subſcribers may be put under ſuch Reſtrictions, as may prevent Frauds and Foul practices, by ſuch Methods as you in your Great Wiſdom ſhall think meet and Convenient.

That thoſe Subſcribers preſume to Divide no more than Five *per Cent* out of the neat profits; and that the Remainder of the neat profits be kept in the Hands of the Governours, to be diſpoſed of for ſuch Charitable Uſes as the Major part of the Subſcribers ſhall think fit, and that thoſe Subſcribers be oblig'd to pay the poor in thoſe Work-Houſes the ſame price for Spinning as the Spinſters of *Great-Britton* from Time to Time elſewhere receive.

It's likewiſe humbly propos'd that the *Poor* in thoſe *Work-Houſes* be under the ſame puniſhment and Correction as our preſent poor now are, or ſhall hereafter be; and that thoſe Subſcribers chuſe Governours among themſelves as often as ſhall be found convenient.

It's farther offer'd to your Serene Judgments that the Governours be empower'd to buy all Utenſils and Materials and pay all Wages, alſo that they be obliged to Sell all their Threads and Yarns at a publick Sale, and to the higheſt Bidder, and to keep fair Accounts, leaving their Books Open to the *publick view* of every *Subſcriber*.

Finally

Finally and that the Books kept by the Governors be reviſed, by ſome Juſtice or Juſtices of the *Peace*, in the ſame manner as pariſh Books are, and that in caſe of Male-practices they may have the ſame power over them as over other pariſh Officers.

As for my Reward, I leave that intirely to Your Great Wiſdom and Goodneſs, and hope that this Auguſt and Wiſe Aſſembly will take what I've hereby moſt Humbly Offer'd into an early Conſideration, that my Honeſt Endeavour, to ſerve my Country, may be no longer delay'd, and your Petitioner as in Duty bound ſhall ever Pray, &c.

Theſe Engines are to be ſeen at a private Houſe between the *Blue-Boar* and the *White-Lyon* in *New-Palace-Yard*, oppoſite to *Weſtminſter-Hall-Gate*; where Attendance will be given to ſhew their performance, and to treat with perſons that will Employ them in Work-Houſes or otherwiſe, upon very Reaſonable Terms.

THO. THWAITES.

RINLS.

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MUSEUM

The Engines are to be
a private Table between the
Play-Door and the White-
Lyon in New-Palace-Yard,
opposite to Westminster-Hall-
Gate; where Attendance
will be given to shew their
performance, and to treat
with persons that will Em-
ploy them in Work-Houses
or otherwise, upon very
Reasonable Terms.